

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Purpose

This report examines the existing and future parking conditions in the east downtown area of Lincoln, Nebraska. The purpose of this report is to provide an accurate inventory, identify current deficiencies, and explore the effects that the Pershing Center, State and Federal Offices, and other generators identified in the recently adopted 2005 Lincoln Downtown Master Plan have on parking demand in the downtown area. This report also identifies possible solutions including recommendations for future improvements. This report was prepared by Kirkham Michael under a contract with the City of Lincoln.

2.2 Project Location

The study location is in central Lincoln. The East Downtown Area is 28 square blocks, generally bordered by “Q” and “G” Streets, and by 14th and 17th Streets. The study area boundaries can be seen in Figure 1.

2.3 History

Several parking studies have been performed for the City of Lincoln over the past decade. In 1993, the City of Lincoln Transportation Department performed a detailed parking study. Since that study, the Downtown reaffirmed itself as a major employment/entertainment center with specialty retail and housing support. In the fall of 2000, a comprehensive parking study was again initiated for the City of Lincoln. Data collection for that study was provided by the UNL Student Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), while Kirkham Michael was contracted to provide analysis, documentation, and recommendations in August of 2001.

Among those recommendations provided in the 2001 study, was a recommendation to construct a parking garage in the Haymarket area of Lincoln. The Haymarket Parking Garage was completed in 2002. A recommendation to construct a parking garage in the vicinity of the County/City building was also included. In December 2001, a detailed study completed by Kirkham Michael was presented to the Lincoln/Lancaster County Public Building Commission. Included in that study was a revised parking inventory and occupancy of the County/City Building area and detailed analysis of a selected parking structure location. That parking garage was completed in 2004.

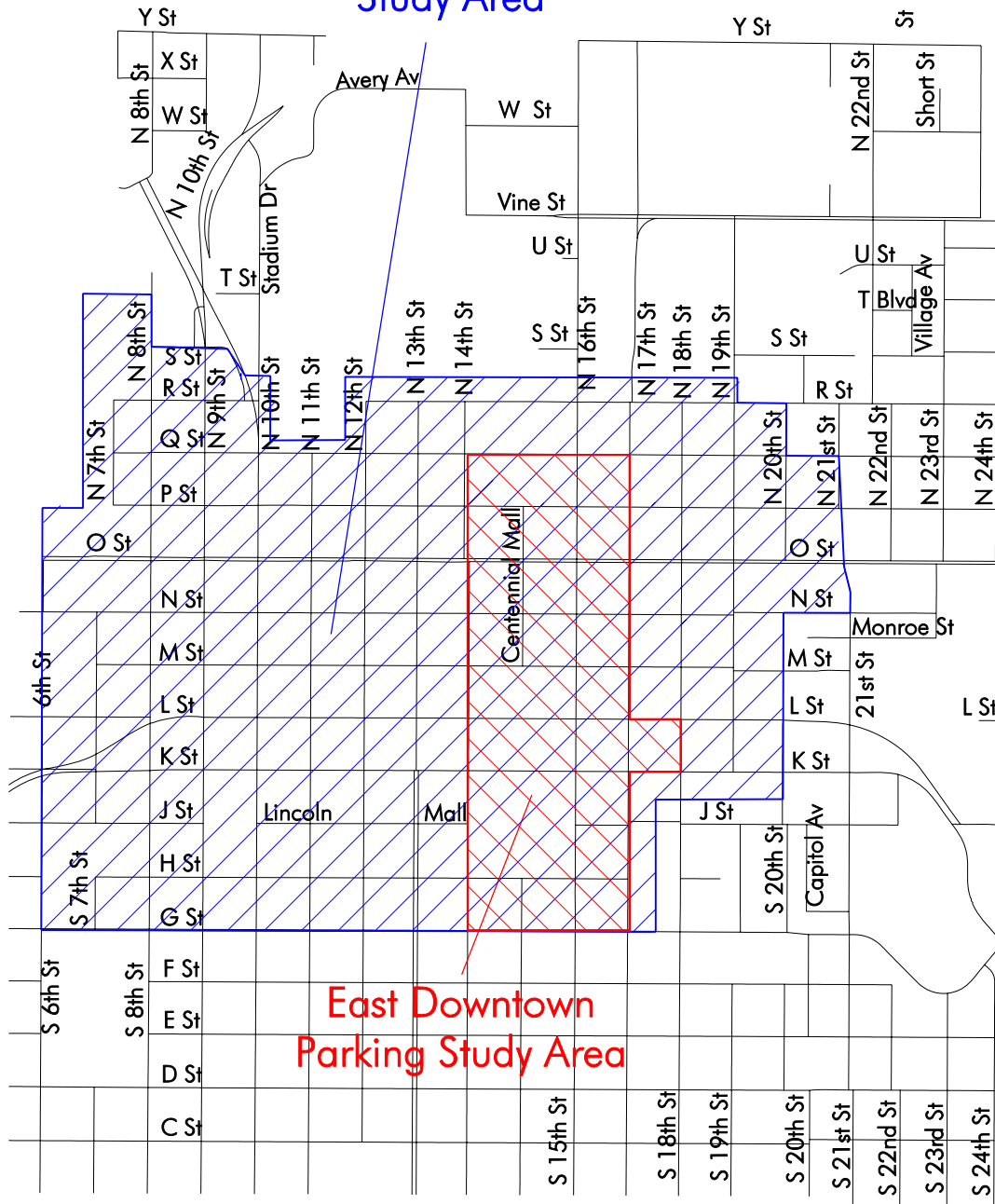
The University of Nebraska completed two major parking facilities (1,700 spaces each) one near 17th and “Q” Streets, and one near 14th Street and Avery Avenue, since the 2001 study. This has reduced the student demand for parking along the north side of the downtown area.

Recommendation number six of the 2001 Lincoln Parking Study is shown below.

6. *The eastern edge of downtown should be planned for a major parking garage. The existing shortages around the Federal Building, Pershing Auditorium, State Capitol, and State Office Building should be addressed as well as the potential parking demands of any Antelope Valley redevelopment in this area.*



Downtown Parking Study Area



The purpose of this study is to address this recommendation and the parking needs in the area as addressed in the 2005 Lincoln Downtown Master Plan.

The implementation of several of the recommendations provided in the 2001 Lincoln Parking Study has resulted in changes to the City of Lincoln Parking Supply. Table 1 highlights the major changes over the past 10 years, while Figure 2 provides a history of the parking supply in downtown Lincoln over the past 53 years.

Table 1-Major Changes in Parking Supply (1993 – 2005)

Block Number	Net Change in Parking	Reason
<u>Increases</u>		
13	+364	Net gain due to the construction of the Market Place garage
15	+668	Net gain due to the construction of the Que Place garage and addition
75	+246	Addition to the StarTran lots and surrounding on-street parking
70	+297	Addition of two levels to the state garage
82	+156	Addition of one level to the state garage
67	+611	Net gain due to the construction of the Carriage Park garage
UNL Campus	+3,891	New UNL Parking Garages and Lots
2	+257	New Haymarket Parking Garage
	+159	Reconfigured Iron Horse Lot (Haymarket)
77	+350	New County/City Parking Garage
<u>Decreases</u>		
3	-269	Closure of the Haymarket lot for the Journal Star building
16	-189	Closure of lot for the Swanson Russell building/Gunny's garage construction
9	-223	Closure of lot for construction of the new UNL garage
14	-281	Closure of lot for construction of Embassy Suites
5	-114	Construction of UNL Visitor's Center
UNL Campus	-2510	Various UNL Construction Projects and Antelope Valley Project

*Bold items indicate changes completed since the 2001 study

Figure 2 - Total Parking Supply in Downtown Lincoln

